

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed August 21, 2007 have been carefully considered. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The subject matter of claim 12 has been generally incorporated into claim 9. Claims 1-11, and 13 remain pending in the application and claims 14-18 have been newly added. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 11, and 13 have been amended. Support for these changes can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 5-7 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-7 and 13 have been rewritten as new claims 14-17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 14-17.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,206,580 to Nagaoka et al. (hereinafter "Nagaoka"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, a first housing part including a latching tab and being configured to be latched over a conductor cable and a second housing part defining a second opening sized to receive the latching tab of the first housing part.

Nagaoka does not disclose or suggest a first housing part including a latching tab and a second housing part defining a second opening sized to receive the latching tab of the first housing part. For at least these reasons, Nagaoka does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-4 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 9 recites, in part, securing a conductor cable in a fixed position within a first housing part by latching a second housing part to the first housing part by sliding ramped latches of the second housing part into openings defined in the first housing part.

Nagaoka does not disclose or suggest securing a conductor cable in a fixed position within a first housing part by latching a second housing part to the first housing part by sliding ramped latches of the second housing part into openings defined in the first housing part. For at least these reasons, Nagaoka does not anticipate claim 9. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 9-12 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,432 to Nakajima et al. (hereinafter "Nakajima"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, the claim 8 is allowable over Nagaoka for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 8 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

New Claims

Claims 14-18 have been newly added. As discussed above, allowable claims 5-7 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims as new claims 14-17.

To the extent the above rejections apply to claim 18, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claim 18 recites, in part, a plug housing defining first and second side openings on opposite sides of the plug housing; and a cable cap defining first and second latching tabs protruding radially from the cable cap, the first and second latching tabs being configured to fit within the first and second openings, respectively, of the plug housing.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a plug housing defining first and second side openings on opposite sides of the plug housing; and a cable cap defining first and second latching tabs protruding radially from the cable cap, the first and second latching tabs being configured to fit within the first and second openings, respectively, of the plug housing. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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